Drury, E Charles = Premier of Ontario = Nov. 1919 - May 1920

(020)

November 4th, 1919

Honourable E. C. Drury,
Premier of Ontario.

Dear Mr. Drury:

Allow me in the first place as a citizen of the Province to extend to you my personal congratulations on the honour that has been conferred upon you with I am sure the best wishes of the people of the Province at large. I am sure that the Province will receive from you very wise and safe leadership, and I hope that you will find much satisfaction in your tenure of office. Naturally in my position as President of the University it will be necessary for me often to consult you with regard to questions of policy that lie before us as a University, and it is a matter for great satisfaction that we are to have as Premier of the Province one who understands the importance of education. If you think that at any time I can be of any service to you in regard to matters dealing particularly with the University it will afford me great pleasure to render any aid that I possibly can.

The immediate object of my writing this letter, however, is to invite you to be present at the celebrations which we are to have in the University next Tuesday, November 11th.

On that occasion the new Hart House, presented to the University by the Massey Estate, is to be formally presented and opened by His Excellency the Governor-General at twelve o'clock; thereafter there will be a lunch, and at three o'clock Convocation will be held for the conferring of degrees for war service. Later there will be the laying of the foundation stone of the University War Memorial, and in the evening there will be a dinner, chiefly for graduates of the University.

If you can be present at any or all of these functions it will give us great pleasure. With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 31st, 1919

The Honourable E. C. Drury,
Premier of Ontario.

Dear Mr. Premier:

Will you allow me to lay before you in outline the requests of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto as they were presented to you and the Cabinet yesterday ? These requests are therefore:

(1) The estimates of the University for the present financial year ending June 30th, 1920, were laid before you together with a letter from the Honourable W. H. Hearst, dated June 18th, 1919, stating that the Government approved the estimates. On the basis of this letter the Governors have been acting and these estimates have now been in effect for six months.

It was brought to the attention of the Cabinet that in these estimates there is a deficit of $517,752 to be temporarily charged to capital. At the same time the Governors stated that in view of the large and unexpected increase in students during the present year and also of a surplus on the operations of last year it will probably be found at the end of the present financial year, that is to say 30th June, 1920, that this deficit will amount to not more than $400,000. The Governors therefore ask the Cabinet to have this amount, that is to say $400,000, placed in the estimates of the Government and passed by the next session of the Legislature.

(2) The Board of Governors laid before the Cabinet a request for a grant of $125,000 in order to meet their share of the capital indebtedness still resting upon the Toronto General Hospital. This total indebtedness amounts to about $800,000 and the Trustees of the Toronto General Hospital have undertaken to remove this debt provided they can secure the co-operation of the City and the University , both of whom are associated with private donors in the maintenance and control of the hospital. Private donations to the amount of $500,000 have already been secured, and the City has promised $125,000 provided the Government through the University

will authorise the payment of the same amount.

Two years ago the Government made a grant of $25,000 for the running expenses of the Hospital to meet an emergency. At that time the Government was of opinion that it could do this more easily through the University than by direct grant. The Board of Governors urge upon the Government the desirability of having this debt removed as it is crippling the development of the Hospital and thereby also of the medical education given to the students of the University. This Hospital is to all intents and purposes a university hospital. Few hospitals on the continent are better equipped, a result due to the munificence of private benefactors in this city.

(3) The Board of Governors also laid before the Government a memorandum on buildings. Of these two were already authorised by the former Government and the Electrical Building is now under construction. Plans for the Anatomical Building and tenders on these plans have been received. The amount, however, is much larger than that originally expected. The building if constructed of brick would cost $440,000 and of stone $110,000 more. The reason for construction in stone, which was favoured by the late Government, is that it will give uniformity to the buildings on Queen's Park. The pressure of students in the Faculty of Medicine is such that this building should be proceeded with at once.

In addition to these two buildings, which have been already authorised, a plan of buildings the erection of which should be proceeded with in the near future was also laid before the Cabinet together with a memorandum giving some detail as to the needs for each building.

It was also suggested to the Government by Sir Edmund Walker that the capital sum of two and a half millions involved in this plan could be met by a system of annuities guaranteed by the Government of the Province. These could be met by annual payments amounting to somewhat over $150,000 for the next forty years, but it is to be observed that this total amount would not be necessary for two or three years inasmuch as the total sum would be gradually reached as the buildings are proceeded with.

If there is any further information that I can see before you I shall be glad to meet any of the Ministers at their convenience.

I am, Yours sincerely,

President.

OFFICE OF
THE PRIME MINISTER & PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
ONTARIO

Toronto, February 5th, 1920.

Dear Sir Robert Falconer,-

Your letter of the 31st December to the Provincial Treasurer, in regard to the request of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto re Estimates, has been brought to the attention of the Premier, who is Acting Treasurer during the illness of Mr. Smith.

Mr. Drury has asked me to say to you that if there is no particular haste in the matter he would like to hold it for action until Mr. Smith is able to return to his duties.

Yours very truly,

Homer Wallis

Secretary.

Dear Mr. Drury
I am very sorry to learn that Mr Smith is unwell. Of course the matters may await your convenience but the matter of the hospital grant & the tenders on the buildings are somewhat urgent, & myself know confused with the house
with advts.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

February 6th, 1920

The Honourable H. C. Drury,
Premier of Ontario.

Dear Mr. Drury:

I am very sorry to know that Mr. Smith is unwell. Of course matters may await your and his convenience, though the matter of the proposed Hospital grant and the tenders one one building are somewhat urgent.

I myself am confined to the house with a cold.

Yours sincerely,

President.

May 20th, 1920

The Honourable E. C. Drury,
Premier of Ontario,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Drury:

There is to be a special Convocation held at the University on the evening of June 3rd for the purpose of conferring honorary degrees on General, Sir Arthur Currie, and others. The regular Commencement will be held on June 4th, at two o'clock. I hope that you will find it possible to be present on either or both of these occasions, and I shall be glad to send you a programme and full details, so that if Mrs. Drury is able to accompany you we may have the pleasure of your both being present with us during these closing exercises.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.